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EIGHTEEN MAXIMS
OF
CLEANLINESS AND ORDER.

WITH AN INTRODUCTION.

BY THERESA TIDY.

- "For want of a nail the shoe was lost;
"For want of a shoe the horse was lost;
"For want of a horse the rider was lost;
" (Saying overthrown and still by the young,)
"And so for want of care there's hurt and pain."
Proverb. German.

THE TWENTY-THIRD EDITION.

LONDON:
HATCHARD AND SONS, PICCADILLY.
1838.

Price 6d.



EIGHTEEN MAXIMS
OF
NEATNESS AND ORDER.

Jedrich Hor.

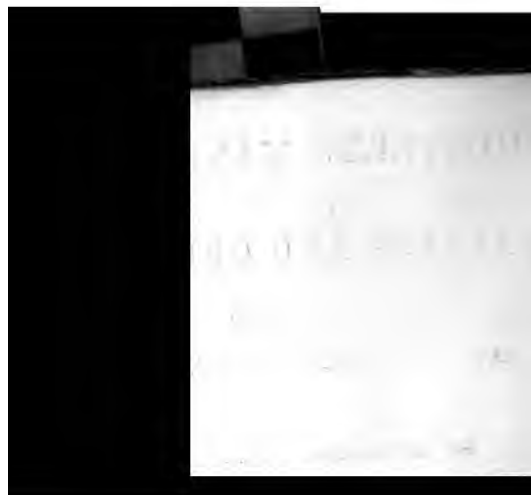


EIGHTEEN MA.
OF
NEATNESS AND O.
TO WHICH IS PREFIXED
AN INTRODUCTION
BY THERESA TIDY.

" For want of a nail the shoe was lost,
" For want of a shoe the horse was lost,
" For want of a horse the rider was lost,
" (Being overtaken and slain by the enemy,)
" And all for want of care about a horse-shoe r.
POOR RICH

THE TWENTY-THIRD EDITION.

LONDON:
HATCHARD AND SON, PICCADILY
1838.



INTRODUCTION.

“ OH ! Mamma, what can be so tiresome
“ as a lecture upon neatness, which that
“ Mrs. Tidy talked of giving us some
“ rainy morning ! I am sure we are
“ always employed, and never idle :
“ and when we have so little time to
“ prepare for our masters, it is quite
“ impossible to give up any of it to
“ putting our things in their places, and
“ keeping them all in prim order.”

Such was part of a conversation which

the loss of a French exercise which
had been preparing for her ;
while her sister was begging the
a pencil to finish her tambour
for a gown which was to be worn
evening ; and a cold dish of t
standing for a third, who had m
made her appearance in the family

Alas ! order is an ill-fated to

of the Miss Watkins,* (those victims of delay and untidiness,) to that in which Mrs. Barbauld introduced into the world her elegant little allegory of the two fairies, Order and Disorder,† the subject remained in hopeless neglect and disgrace; and even since that benevolent attempt, matters have not much mended. What then can be expected from the effort of an individual whose name is unknown in the annals of literature? Be it, however, remembered that the exertions of a mouse once delivered a lion from his toils; that the cackling of geese saved the Capitol; and let the following hints, which may appear

* *Vide p. 42.*

† *Vide Evenings at Home.*

INTRODUCTION.

and trifling, be received with
as laying the foundation of
ings and habits which are to
of the female character. If
he age of eight, they will have
happy maturity by that of
Nor let the brothers of the
question, shake their heads at
ady's preciseness: for it is no
y the attention of these future
e creation. Order and regu-
qualifications essential to the
of even a hero, and may
life and soul of militar

The manual exercise i
a certain set of motion
ng rules are intent

tablish a mechanical habit of exactness in the daily labours and duties of life. By the fashionable and affluent description of readers, this system, which embraces also the cause of economy, may perhaps be disdained, since money may be supposed to supersede the necessity of all trouble of this kind. Let these then be reminded, that liberality, domestic comfort, and even elegance, are the happy fruits of it; for the money spared from waste may add to the stock destined for charity; the time rescued may be employed in a thousand ways to their own improvement; and the invisible attention of the mistress can alone ensure the regularity of the servants, and the

PRODUCTION.

t of the most luxurious a 1

If time is the stuff that ch.

; (as poor Richard says,) a 1

l that order and symmetry ric

that *beauty* is made of: b

idence is one of the chief fi

human comfort, no fine to

ise the task of employing

well as eyes in arranging di

hich is the scene of it. 2

s she will be better pre-

r a cottage, should the

nan life demand it fr

' a cottage has more

an ill-arranged villa.

brought up in the '

tion a man of small fortune, which quickly
the changes her ideas, and reconciles her to
ays a different scene ; but without some pre-
net vious exertion in this instance, she will
be dismally wanting in one of the quali-
fications necessary to make her fireside
comfortable.

Allow me, gentle reader, before I con-
clude my apology, to advert to the revo-
lution which has taken place, since the
period when our grandmothers pre-
sided over the apartments we now in-
habit. Then were bare to the very quick
the walls and floors which now are cover-
ed and loaded with excrescences ; then
were a sofa and a set of stuffed-back
chairs, ranged in a semicircle round the

equipage, (where the you
presided,) nor did the pic
forth from its station, excep
verdant lap for cards. I
and footstools were luxuries
a large square screen of tent-
in one corner,

" Where you might see the shep
lass,

THE END

ment is absolutely so stuffed with furniture as to require a degree of coachmanship to avoid overturning it. Chairs and sofas of all shapes and sizes; tables of all descriptions, filled with boxes and baskets for every purpose that can be devised: flower-stands, book-shelves, cabinets, china, musical instruments, desks, and ottomans, fill up every corner; not to mention a profusion of books, pamphlets, and portfolios, which are scattered in all directions. Now amidst such a variety of objects, some care is necessary to keep within the title of fashionable embellishment and elegant accommodation, what would otherwise *be degraded into a mass of lumber.* To



INTRODUCTION.

prevent this, and other enormities
the humble attempt (in the following
maxims) of

THERESA TIDY.



EIGHTEEN MAXIMS

OF

NEATNESS AND ORDER.

I.

LET it be remembered that litter is a hydra which it requires constant care to overcome. In a thousand shapes it haunts every room, drawer, shelf, table, sofa, and even chair; and, being left to itself, will sometimes swallow up articles of the greatest value. If the judgment of the housemaid be trusted to, all is lost; she has not patience to separate the chaff from the wheat, and often piles up the former with care, while

IGHTEEN MAXIMS OF

is away the latter. M
er has lost the result of
culation; many an artist
he faded and dying marks
efforts; many a giddy n
ed the absence of a rece
twice offered and already pa
many a pleasant invitation ha
wn into the fire, while its empty
s left, to the disturbance of
tercourse, and the beginning

Take, as an instance, the embarrassment too often occasioned by the want of care in the lodgment of those keys which are not in constant use. They are, perhaps, not forthcoming when wanted, or, being laid by without a label, come in the way uncalled to puzzle our recollection. Nay, we are sometimes almost tempted to throw away, as useless, these rusty implements which, in a moment of distress, may prove invaluable.

III.

Do not imagine that neatness and care demand any unnecessary sacrifice of time, for no time is so completely lost as in hunting for lost things ; but that is so much saved, which has been employed in

providing a place for every article, and by that means enabled you to find it readily even in the dark. The necessity of a neat arrangement of letters, papers, and accounts, to ensure our safety, as well as to spare trouble, need not be insisted upon.*

* When adverting to the arrangement of letters, a hint ought not to be omitted concerning the comfort and advantage of punctuality in observing promises to absent friends. Upon arriving at the place of our destination, one of the first questions is, At what time does the post go out? If this happen to give us more latitude than we expected, how common is it to defer to the last moment the task of writing, and either disappoint our friend by silence, or despatch a hurried and unsatisfactory letter! It may also be remarked, that a striking emblem of celerity, as well as punctuality, is offered by that conveyance of letters in this favoured country, which pursues its ceaseless progress by night and by day for the comfort and happiness of *the community.*

IV.

Remember, that a young lady's chest of drawers is sometimes taken as a prophetic criterion of her future ménage, and may be considered as no unapt representation of the arrangement in her memory of the acquirements she has made in learning. What can be more pitiable than the heterogeneous mass of litter in the attic story, either of the human frame, or the dwelling in which it resides? and what more appalling to the faculties, than to open a drawer filled with things new and old, gloves dirty and clean, paired and unpaired, skeins of silk and cotton tangled in a mass, scattered beads, bits of silk and muslin, soiled or faded ribbons, tattered notes of

V.

Acquire a habit of folding up. Many a fine print or dress has been ruined, many a cloak and many a shawl trailed on for want of this timely neatness. Be ready, who, even if she can afford to buy new ones when they are spoiled, cannot spare a contribution of dust to her delicate shoulders.

get that the very same quantity adheres invisibly to a white one. Expose not, therefore, to its insidious attacks, any article of value either in dress, furniture, books, or pictures. If the piano-forte be left open, the desk elevated, and the music exposed all night, a frightful accumulation of dust will have taken place before the next morning, which will cling to the fingers of the performer, as well as spoil the articles in question.

VII.

Commit not to a chair the office of a table, by laying upon it books, papers, or work, still less a desk, or anything heavy, to fall upon the toes of the first person that moves it; neither degrade

getting —
glasses which dwell upon the

VIII.

Never sally forth from
room in the morning without
fashioned article of dress, a j
card for ever that modern
called a ridicule, (proper
and remember that a poet

dent to carry about you a purse, a
ble, a pincushion, a pencil, a knife,
a pair of scissors, which will be
expressible source of comfort and
pendence, by removing the neces-
of borrowing; a pernicious system,
the borrower too frequently for-
to return, and the lender to reclaim

with a pocket-handkerchief in her hand.
ly is this custom introduced, but it is now
mmon an enormity, for a young lady, when
sitting down to a writing-desk, or piano-
to place it by her side. This appendage,
forgotten when she has finished her occupa-
ad goes out of the room, is often left, an
mate memorial of its owner, and a disgrace
apartment. Perhaps a sumptuary law might
olesome, to prevent this article from being
ed upon the list of embellishments, by a
l or lace border, an expedient by which it
n known to usurp the empire of the fan.—
spectator, vol. ii. No. 102.

...ance, have to
inhabit the same pocket :
The establishment of need
is to be kept not only re
vice, but bright in action.
to remain unsewed or u
want of a maid to perform
it is a dismal thing to be
that article of luxury, of
most helpless and indolent

* Neatness in dress is --

be deprived by frequent accidents. Always have a piece of work to take up at a spare minute, and particularly for evenings at home, when reading is going forward.

IX.

When you have finished your morning studies, and go out to take a walk, or dress for dinner, look round the room, that you may put in its place every thing belonging to you ; and if the chairs have been put in motion by departed guests, and “ look as if they had been dancing country-dances and were out,”* either set them in their places, or take care that it be done by some one else, that if any company come in during your absence, the room may not wear

* Vide Gray's Letters.

X.

Disdain not an acquaintance
common things; and among the
geography of the roads or str
re to traverse in your mornin
tions, that you be not comp
measure back your steps betw
ice and another, at the loss
l labour. Some young near
fessed that

scrupulous care the commissions which may be entrusted to you, to execute in your progress. A bad memory is an involuntary fault; but a wandering eye, or divided attention, while your friend is giving you directions, is a hopeless one, since it cuts off all chance of the accomplishment of her wishes.*

XI.

When you come in from a walk or ride in winter, never fly to the hearth-

* It is proper to remind my young reader of the necessity of punctuality in her appointments, for the steeds of the sun will not slacken their speed because she forgets to look at her watch. As the poet Young observes,

“ The day in hand,

Like a bird struggling to get loose, is going.”

Let her then try to keep pace with it, and thus avoid blame to herself, as well as annoyance to those who wait for her.

the quiet employment of those who
sitting by the fire, and encourage in-
correct habits. Nor is it allowable at
all times, to toss your bonnet, shawl,
or gloves upon half a dozen chairs or tables;
either carry them up to your own room,
and fold them neatly, to remain till
necessary for dinner; but never put
gloves or other articles into the cruet
basket, your bonnet, by way of basket.
A whip or a cane should never be laid
on the table, since, when touched at on-

NEATNESS AND ORDER.

XII.

Never remain engaged in a favorite employment longer than the duty of the day will allow; and recollect that there is often more true diligence in leaving off than in beginning. Rest too, from taking up a book, or even a newspaper, merely because it happens to lie before you, though unattended by any circumstance to render it interesting, as it induces a desultory mode of reading, and enervates the mind. The only moment of toleration for this practice is, when we are confined to it by some accidental engagement which does not allow time to provide our leisure with the object of our regular study.

XIII.

Take care to be dressed in

sary. Many young people are
lest they be dressed one mo
soon, that by accidental, but
bable delays, they are some
an hour too late. Then th
hopeless : the company waits in
ing-room, or the carriage w
door ; or else, the former si
table, and the latter drives a
out waiting for the frightene
who looks like a *roule man*

willing to inflict this necessary penalty, and is perhaps called to account for the fault of another. One source of this misery may be discovered, in the desire of appearing in a new dress when there

is an object by no means unworthy the attention of a gentlewoman. When the time arrives, in which she is placed at the head of her own table, it will be found an indispensable acquirement, though fashion has made it necessary for her next neighbour to offer his assistance, whether capable or otherwise ; and when stationed at the side of the table, it is often her fate to attack a fowl which is placed before her, and which, for want of a little practice, may chance to suffer a clumsy dismemberment. In some large families, it has been the custom for the daughters to take their turn at the head of the table, in order to relieve the mother, and to provide against their own future destination ; but for the sons to be exercised in the same way is still more necessary, since they are supposed to be able to assist at the table of their friends, as well as to support the cause of *elegance and comfort in doing the honours of their own.*

with

s of music
to nuisances
unless the great
piano-forte be-
lusion, and the
Augean stable.*

ek of music in order
cessary thing, and re-
large piano-forte w-
fat friend

... half so beco
old one; for that has had tin
itself to the figure, and ease
advantageous to the appear
either splendour or variety.

XIV.

When you take up a flat cal
ait till the candle is properly
d snuff it before you take it

cult to be lighted again. Remember, too, never to lay down a pen without wiping from it the ink. The neglect of this custom is the cause of the distorted pens portrayed in the "Miseries of Human Life," and is enough to dismay the next person that takes up the unfortunate implement crippled with dry ink.

XV.

The delightful sciences of music and painting degenerate into nuisances by the litter they occasion, unless the greatest care be taken. The piano-forte becomes a mass of confusion, and the drawing apparatus an Augean stable.*

* To keep an extensive stock of music in order is a difficult, though very necessary thing, and requires some contrivance. A large piano-forte was once quaintly compared to a fat friend, who is al-

ureau, and fragments of r
quire daily revision and
they will look like a chemi

XVI.

Remember that the eye c
a wholesome and never-fa
upon the neatness of the serv
will ring the bell to have the
from any accidental drop of i

ter, which has left its mark upon it; or refrain from scratching it by carelessly dragging over it her boxes and implements of work; the servant will be encouraged in his labours to keep the mahogany bright by rubbing, which has always an air of comfort, not to say elegance.

XVII.

Every one who is fond of reading will naturally be careful of books, or at least be watchful that no volumes be lost from a set; but they require constant attention, not only to be forthcoming, but guarded from injury both external and internal.* Books which are on daily duty, and particularly borrowed ones,

* Turning down the corner of a leaf, or placing an open book with its face upon the table, when

kept; but it is a melancholy
not one person in a hundred
to turn over a valuable por-
tfolio the first guest that comes in
place the folio or quarto o-
ver him, and you will observe
his hand lying on his knee, then
put in action, and turns over
close to the hinge of the book
constant danger of chipping
the edges of the stiff paper.

arranging words and figures, the right hand can alone be deputed to execute the trust with safety; and this must be placed ready to turn over the leaves at the top right hand or north-east corner of the page.

XVIII.

If you are to go on a journey, think in due time of all the articles necessary for your comfort, without being superfluous; and let them be neatly packed up, so as to avoid loading the carriage with ill-contrived bundles, bags, or boxes. Nothing is so disagreeable as a carriage filled with loose parcels, and the very utmost that a young person can be allowed in the inside of it, is a writing portfolio, a work-box or bag, a book in her hand, and a parasol. As we are

now arrived at the article of pack up, it will, perhaps, be expected Theresa too should take her leave ceremony she is by no means unwilling to perform, being aware that a short visit is more likely to be accepted than a long one; and should any jealous critic suggest articles proper for discussion, which have here escaped observation, she will gladly leave the subject in his hands, hoping, that when right spirit is awakened in the minds of her young friends, they will remember and apply, in every possible instance these hints of their most anxious wisher,

THERESA TIL

POSTSCRIPT


TO THE SIXTEENTH EDITION.

THERESA TIDY cannot permit a Sixteenth Edition of the Eighteen Maxims to make its appearance, without repeating her expressions of obligation for the candid reception which that little manual has met with from her young friends, as well as her hope, that the subject has become less irksome to them, than it is represented to have been by the breakfast party of her acquaintance, mentioned in the Introduction, and that they have already culled a larger portion of leisure and comfort, *than they could have thought possible, from the sole interposition of order and*

... the first duty
been performed, (with
can prosper,) consid
circumstances and o
particularly demand y
not only prepare to fu
but make your appoin
orders to others with
is a rule never omitted
tress of a family; and
have learned the same
imagine that

active-minded persons to undertake more in a given space of time, than it can possibly allow them to accomplish ; but experience will discover that this practice tends to the loss rather than the saving of that valuable article. When one thing treads upon the heels of another, nothing will be done well ; the last upon the list will fare the worst, and the race must be run over again, to the fatigue of the weary traveller in his daily round of duty.

But to conclude. After all our attempts at arrangement, seasons will sometimes occur in which we must unavoidably feel overwhelmed by a multiplicity of concerns. Lose then no time in beginning, because you know not what to begin with ; even the most trifling article upon the list will help to wind up the mind by degrees, and when



things, and great thin
of themselves." The
of the value of mome
found insensible to tl

"A STITCH IN TIME SAVES NINE."

A TALE.*

Two sisters, and Watkins their name,
Were agreeable, good-natured, and clever,
Yet not undisputed their fame,
For envious faults haunt us ever.

Untidy, and careless were they
Of all the good things they possess'd,
Their dress, books, and playthings each day,
In one common ruin were press'd.

Their Mamma, who was vex'd, and who found
No end to the treasure they wasted,
Thought fit while these doings went round,
That the consequence too should be tasted

And, determined to stop the supplies,
Which this indolent traffic maintained,
She, regardless of tears and of cries,
Their *lost goods* in *limbo* detained.

* Vide Introduction, page 7.

Next morn the coach cam
And the misses were calle
" Oh sister, my hat's on tl
I pray you for once stand

While I find the blue string
" And you must be mine,"
" For I've lost both my glove
Alas ! what a trial for me !

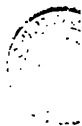
But while they survey'd the
Heath

With sorrow and shame they reflect
On the silly appearance they make,
And determine to cure a defect,
Which a forfeit so heavy must take.

Their Mamma cheered them up with a smile,
And carried them on to the place,
Which display'd an extravagant pile
Of books, faded ribbons, and lace.

"Now let each her own property find,
And each to its station restore,
For till all these stray partners are join'd,
Will I never bestow on you more."

Then ponder this notable story,
Ye masters and misses of mine ;
And learn from the instance before ye,
Care, neatness, and skill to combine.





...this occasion for her
planning style and manner to
books that attract her most
carefully. It is quite a young
Literary Classic.

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and the execution, for her
pleasant style and human val
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